

Arkadiusz Wełniak "*The Formation of Population Relations in the Elbląg District in the Years 1945-1950*" (abstract)

The topic of the study "*The Formation of Population Relations in the Elbląg District in the Years 1945-1950*" encompasses all issues related to population, land use, nationality relations and social and demographic changes in the city of Elbląg and the county's rural communities immediately after the Second World War. The introduction presents the main research problem, thesis and basic research questions, discusses the methods used to carry out the study and the current state of the research.

The first chapter presents the historical and political conditions of the war period and the events of 1945 which affected the population relations in the first years after the end of the Second World War. The characteristics of the administrative changes occurring at this time and of the offices and institutions supervising and coordinating the settlement campaign were also considered important in this case. Next chapter is devoted to the issues of the German population remaining in the Elbląg district between 1945 and 1950. It presents the legal and living conditions of the German community, as well as the specific character and course of their displacement in the years 1945 - 1947. Organized displacement of Germans from the Elbląg county became a kind of prelude to subsequent mass departures as a part of the so-called family reunion action. In this case, the so-called native Polish population took part in the emigration to both German states. The thesis presents the specificity of the nationality verification itself and the repolonisation campaign of this group conducted by the authorities.

The next two chapters deal with the conditions and course of the settlement process in the city and county of Elbląg. Due to their specific nature, the chapters are divided into segments about urban and rural settlements as well as problem-chronological sections. The chapter about urban settlements is based on the population of the city of Elbląg and additionally outlines the migration processes and social and population transformations in the town Tolkmicko. The components of the settlement process in Elbląg include the issues of living conditions, absorption capacity and possibilities of population inflow at particular stages of the settlement. A separate section discusses the issues of patronage, i.e., the activities of the Warsaw Committee for Settlement in the first phase of the post-war colonization of Elbląg, the influx of Polish immigrants from beyond the Bug River and the settlement of Polish re-emigrants from the West. In the chapter about rural settlement the author also focuses on the earliest stage of populating the villages near Elbląg. Attempts have also been made to link rural settlement with

the processes of agricultural enfranchisement, the premises of agricultural collectivisation and the establishment of state farm structures. A separate section is devoted to non-agricultural villages, shown here on the example of Krynica Morska. An important element of chapter four is also the issue of the resettlement of the Ukrainian population as a part of the "Wisła" action. Further question deals with demographic issues, the dynamics of the natural movement and the regional diversity of the post-war population of Elbląg and the rural communes of the county. The point of reference and a kind of summary are the results of the census of December 1950.

The latter factor constitutes the point of departure for the considerations undertaken in the final, sixth chapter of the dissertation. It presents the issues of the socio-cultural diversity of particular groups of the immigrant population, their adaptation and the ongoing integration processes. An analysis of mixed marriages along with the integrative role of schools and churches was helpful in presenting these issues. The chapter also includes research results concerning religious relations and groups of foreigners who as a consequence of the war, remained temporarily in the district. The study concludes and the whole work is supplemented by an extensive bibliography and a list of statistical tables.